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STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

OBJECTIVES

HYPOTHESES

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

FINDINGS

RECOMMENDATIONS/SUGGESTIONS

CONCLUSIONS

SCOPE FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

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Sharma T., Kwatra, G. (2008) Effectiveness of Social Advertising: A Study of Selected Campaigns, Corporate Social Responsibility, Edited by David Crowther & Nicholas Capaldi, Ashgate Research Companion to Corporate Social Responsibility, Chapter 15, pp 287-303.

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 Schemenner, R.W., Huber, J.C. and Cook, R.L. (1987), "Geographic Differences and the Location of New Manufacturing Facilities," Journal of Urban Economics, Vol. 21, No. 1, pp. 83-104.

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• Garg, Sambhav (2011): "Business Ethics" Paper presented at the Annual International Conference for the All India Management Association, New Delhi, India, 19–22 June.

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Kumar S. (2011): "Customer Value: A Comparative Study of Rural and Urban Customers," Thesis, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra.

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A PERCEPTUAL STUDY ON BUYING BEHAVIOR OF CUSTOMERS TOWARDS READYMADE GARMENTS

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ABSTRACT

Within the current marketing environment, the competition between products and services is becoming increasingly tough. Each producer of goods and services attempts to obtain a potential market share by making consumers believe that they have the answer to all their personal needs and desires. Analyzing and understanding the consumer and his behaviour is the cornerstone of success in marketing. It includes all the physical, mental and emotional processes and concerned behaviour which are observable before, during and after each and every purchase of goods and services. This make us compelling to understand, observe, record and react to such behaviour in case we want to have win-win strategy that matter for marketer and the customer both. The research report presented is based on the "Consumer Perception towards Garments". Through this study an attempt has been made to practically understand those emotional or rational appeals, which drive the purchase decision towards the readymade garments. Due to psychological nature of purchasing, which is increasingly becoming a part of consumer behaviour; it is crucial that manufacturers in the clothing industry become familiar with the perceptions and attitudes of the consumer. Clothing is likely to form an integral part in the enactment of social encounters and it is also seen as a very important channel of non-verbal communication. Within the context of this study, perceptions regarding branded clothing were tested. The need for information about the symbolic nature of clothing is crucial to demonstrating how perceptions are formed and interpreted in society. Some behaviour is not voluntary and is affected largely by environmental factors.

KEYWORDS

Consumer Behaviour, Competition, goods and services, purchasing Decision, perception, Readymade Garments.

INTRODUCTION

his study is an effort to understand the consumer behaviour on Readymade Garments. Consumers are individuals who purchase for the purpose of individual or household consumption. Consumer buys a product looking for certain specific qualities from that product. He must get what he desires, for which he pays. The study opens the various factors which have a direct impact on the buying decision of customers to the large extent. The study will enable us to understand the perception of customers about readymade garments. The study provides "frame of mind" of people, what are the expectations and desires of consumers and up to how much level this expectation is met. The studies also assist the mauls owner and companies so that they can understand the consumer behaviour and can satisfy their consumers by the moral conduct. The study also shows the opportunities and challenges for readymade garment business in respect of both internal and external environment. It discloses the main competitors in the field of garments and also suggests the suitable measures to overcome these hindrances. The research provides guideline to further extension of said business and made visible all the obstacles by conducting a survey. The study shows future scenario of Ready Made Garment Business in current perspective. The research is important to identify Market size, growth and Market Potential of Ready-Made Garment Business. The research shows future Scenario of consumer perception regarding Ready Made Garments in current perspective. The study shows Opportunities and challenges for Ready-Made Garment Business in respect of internal & external environment. Research says about main competitors in the field of Ready-Made Garment Business. The study provides guideline to further extension of Ready-Made Garment Business in Ujjain City. The study provides help to know the customers satisfaction with concerned parties. The study will enable us to understand the perception of customers about readymade garments. It discloses the main competitors in the field of garments and also suggests the suitable measures to overcome these hindrances. The research provides guideline to further extension of said business and made visible all the obstacles by conducting a survey. The study shows future scenario of Readymade Garment Business in current perspective.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

Understanding buying behaviour pattern is not enough without understanding the composition and origin of the customer. Today most of the Indian customers are attracted by the imported goods because of their high quality. So, that most of the Indian company Product looses their credibility and loyalty in domestic customers. Hence, the present paper was planned with the following aims and objectives.

- 1. To examine customer loyalty in a highly competitive market where consumers have free choice.
- 2. To study the satisfaction level of customers in different attributes of Ready-Made Garments.
- 3. To study the impact of various factors on the consumption pattern.
- 4. To examine various promotional strategies and their relevance and convenience.
- 5. To determine the future desires needs and expectations of customers.

LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The present paper has following limitations:

The paper was conducted in Ujjain only.

The sample size was limited to 100 respondents only.

Only ten shopkeepers dealing with readymade apparels were taken as sample

LITERATURE REVIEW

An attempt has been made to present the review of various studies carried out with regard to see the buying behaviour of customers. A brief overview is presented below:

- Customer satisfaction may be considered as a base line standard of performance and a possible standard of excellence for any business organization (Gerson, 1993). Customer satisfaction is a complex construct. It has been defined in various ways (Besterfield, 1994; Barsky, 1995; Kanji and Moura, 2002; Fecikova, 2004). Recently, researchers have argued that there is a distinction between customer satisfaction as related to tangible products and as related to service experiences. This distinction is due to the inherent intangibility and perishes ability of services, as well as the inability to separate production and consumption. Hence, customer satisfaction with services and with goods may derive from, and may be influenced by, different factors and therefore should be treated as separate and distinct (Veloutsou et al., 2005).
- According to Hasemark and Albinsson (2004) cited in Singh (2006:1) "satisfaction is an overall attitude towards a product provider or an emotional reaction
 to the difference between what customers expect and what they actually receive regarding the fulfillment of a need". Kotler (2000); Hoyer & MacInnis
 (2001) also define satisfaction as a person's feelings of pleasure, excitement, delight or disappointment which results from comparing a products perceived
 performance to his or her expectations. Satisfaction means the contentment one feels when one has fulfilled a desire, need or expectation. Furthermore,

Customer satisfaction can be a measure of how happy customers are with the services and products of a supermarket. Keeping customers happy is of tremendous benefit to companies. Satisfied customers are more likely to stay loyal, consume more and are more likely to recommend their friends to the business.

- Ciavolino & Dahlgaard (2007) suggest that "customer satisfaction can be defined as the overall evaluation of the service performances or utilization. Customer satisfaction can be achieved by improving service quality. Ciavolino & Dahlgaard (2007) contend that service quality is the measure of service levels based o the attributes of the core product. Such attributes include; Facility layout- display of products, clean environment, clear labelling. Other attributes can be Location, Process queue management, waiting time. According to Hoyer & MacInnis (2001) satisfaction can be associated with feelings of acceptance, relief, excitement and delight. Martinéz-Ruiz et al (2010) assert that customers always look for convenience benefit in the modern environment. Additional services are essentially important in the retail business and play a role in determining customer satisfaction through creation of convenience.
- Customer satisfaction is a key and valued outcome of good marketing practice. According to Drucker (1954), the principle purpose of a business is to create satisfied customers. Increasing customer satisfaction has been found to lead to higher future profitability (Anderson, Fornell, and Lehmann 1994), lower costs related to defective goods and services (Anderson, Fornell, and Rust 1997), increased buyer willingness to pay price premiums, provide referrals, and use more of the product (Reichheld 1996; Anderson and Mittal 2000), and higher levels of customer retention and loyalty (Fornell 1992; Anderson and Sullivan 1993; Bolton 1998). Increasing loyalty, in turn, has been found to lead to increases in future revenue (Fornell 1992; Anderson, Fornell, and Lehmann 1994) and reductions in the cost of future transactions (Reichheld 1996; Srivastava, Shervani, and Fahey 1998). All of this empirical evidence suggests that customer satisfaction is valuable from both a customer goodwill perspective and an organization's financial perspective.
- Empirical studies have found evidence that improved customer satisfaction need not entail higher costs, in fact, improved customer satisfaction may lower costs due to a reduction in defective goods, product re-work, etc. (Fornell 1992; Anderson, Fornell, and Rust 1997). However, the key to building long-term customer satisfaction and retention and reaping the benefits these efforts can offer is to focus on the development of high quality products and services. A firm's future profitability depends on satisfying customers in the present retained customers should be viewed as revenue producing assets for the firm (Anderson and Sullivan 1993; Reichheld 1996; Anderson and Mittal 2000). DeWulf, Odekerken-Schröder, and lacobucci 2001). Customers may explain their satisfaction with a product or service in terms of specific aspects such as the product attributes, price, customer service, or a combination of other features.

METHODOLOGY

Research is of Descriptive conclusive type and has sample size consisting of 100 Present and potential customers. Data is collected by using detailed questionnaire with open and close ended questions, where as survey of customers was conducted and respondents were categorized according to gender, occupation, monthly income and No. of dependents.

LIST OF HYPOTHESIS

- 1. There is no significant relation between Brand Name and Occupation of customers.
- 2. There is no significant relation between Location, and Past Experience of customers.
- 3. There is no significant relation between Service Quality and Income Provider of customers.

DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

HYPOTHESIS-1

There is no significant relation between Brand Name and Occupation of customers. **Null Hypothesis (H0):** there is no relation between Occupation and Brand Name. **Alternate Hypothesis (H1):** there is relation between Occupation and Brand Name.

TABLE SHOWS ANNOVA BETWEEN OCCUPATION AND BRAND NAME

| DIMENSION | OCCUPATION | Z | MEAN | STD.DEV | F | SIG. |
|------------|--------------|-----|------|---------|-------|------|
| | Business men | 48 | 2.93 | 1.375 | | |
| Brand Name | Employee | 24 | 3.75 | .495 | 5.359 | .002 |
| | Students | 28 | 3.97 | .468 | | |
| | Total | 100 | | | | |

FINDINGS: It is clear from the table that the Brand Name having F test value 6.94 at significance level of .000, are significant. Hence, the Alternate Hypothesis is accepted and Null Hypothesis is rejected. The higher mean value of 3.97 for students indicates that this group of customers is highly influenced by the Brand Name.

Interpretation: From the obtained data I interpret that majority of customers are in full support that branded clothes are status symbol. Therefore we can say that Brand Name had a large impact on customer satisfaction level. Therefore producers should try to develop sound image of their products.

HYPOTHESIS-2

There is no significant relation between Location and Past Experience of customers. **Null Hypothesis (H0):** there is no relation between Location and Past Experience. **Alternate Hypothesis (H1):** there is relation between Location and Past Experience.

TABLE SHOWS ANNOVA BETWEEN location and Past Experience.

| DIMENSION | AREA | N | MEAN | STD.DEV | F | SIG. |
|-----------------|-------|-----|------|---------|--------|------|
| | Rural | 38 | 4.93 | .657 | | |
| Past Experience | Urban | 62 | 2.75 | 1.495 | 14.149 | .000 |
| | Total | 100 | | | | |

FINDINGS: it is clear from the table that the Past Experience having F test value 6.94 at significance level of .000, are significant. Hence, the Alternate Hypothesis is accepted and Null Hypothesis is rejected. The higher mean value of 4.93 for Rural Customers indicates that this group of customers is highly influenced by the Past Experience

Interpretation: From this analysis I interpret that majority of customers are agreed that past experience with the cloth influence the purchasing power of customers. This report will be helpful for meals owner and companies, so that they can understand the customer behaviour and can satisfy their customer on better manner, to whether they recommend to other or not.

HYPOTHESIS-

There is no significant relation between Service Quality and Income Provider of customers.

Null Hypothesis (H0): there is no relation between Income and Service Quality. **Alternate Hypothesis (H1):** there is relation between Income and Service Quality.

| TABLE SHOWS ANNOVA BETWEEN INCOME AND SERVICE QUALITY | | | | | | | |
|---|---------------|-----|------|---------|------|------|--|
| DIMENSION | INCOME | N | MEAN | STD.DEV | F | SIG. | |
| | Higher Income | 15 | 4.50 | .475 | | | |
| Service Quality | Middle Income | 53 | 1.73 | 1.495 | .757 | .520 | |
| | Lower Income | 32 | 3.01 | .853 | | | |
| | Total | 100 | | | | | |

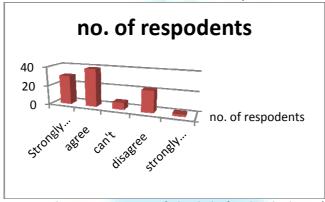
FINDINGS: it is clear from the table that Service Quality having F test value 6.94 at significance level of .000, are significant. Hence, the Alternate Hypothesis is accepted and Null Hypothesis is rejected. The higher mean value of 4.50 for Higher Income Group indicates that this group of customers is highly influenced by

Interpretation: From this I interpret that overall 97% customers mostly prefer quality of product which purchasing garments. Customers like best quality product any price so, company should add latest technology to their products as customers can get more satisfaction. False representation that goods are of specific standard quality or grade should be avoided.

Data Representation

The investigators visited shops offering sales and questionnaires were filled by the respondents. Then the responses were tabulated and percentage was calculated. These are as follow:

CHART 1: SHOWS CUSTOMER PERCEPTION ABOUT SALESMEN /SHOPKEEPERS INFLUENCE



Interpretation: Analyzing the above data I interpret that, customers are satisfied with the fact that shopkeeper/salesman generally influence the selection criteria of customers. Therefore dealers must avoid unfair trade practices such as adulteration, black marketing, false adverting etc and they should supply then useful information about new products and new uses of existing products.

no. of respodents 100 no. of respodents

CHART 2: SHOWS PAST EXPERIENCE INFLUENCE THE BUYING DECISION

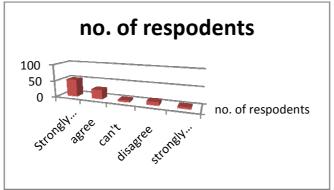
Interpretation: from this analysis I interpret that majority of customers are agreed that past experience with the cloth influence the purchasing power of customers. This report will be helpful for meals owner and companies, so that they can understand the customer behaviour and can satisfy their customer on better manner, to whether they recommend to other or not.

no. of respodents 50 Strongly agree no. of respodents agree disagree strongly disagree

CHART 3: SHOWS SEASON/CLIMATE CONDITIONS INFLUENCE BUYING DECISION

Interpretation: From the obtained data I interpret that majority influence the buying decision. The climate of Ujjain city is moderate i.e., neither too hot in summer nor too cold in winter. In summer people prefer to wear cotton clothes whereas in winter they prefer to wear warm clothes. The effect of climate on customers is somewhat miserable.

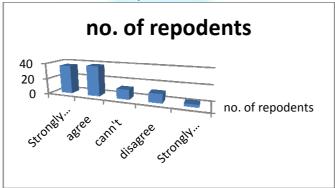
CHART 4: SHOWS CUSTOMER PERCEPTION ABOUT DURABILITY OF CLOTHES



Analysis: The above graph shows out of 100 respondents 52 respondents are strongly agree that durability of clothes influence the buying decision and 28 respondents out of 100 respondents are also agree on the fact that durability of clothes influence the buying decision whereas, overall 15 respondents out of 100 respondents are disagree on the fact that durability of clothes influence the buying decision and remaining 5 respondents can't say anything with this regard.

Interpretation: The above analyses indicate that customers can be better satisfied by providing them those products which are highly durable. It means that the producer has no right to intervene in the purchasing habits of consumers. They should study the requirements regarding the product. Management should also adopt fair trade practices regarding price, quality, durability and service to the product. The selection criteria of customers get largely affected by their products that are highly durable.

CHART 5: SHOWS REPLACEMENT/EXCHANGE INFLUENCE THE BUYING DECISION



Analysis: From the above graph it is clear that out of 100 respondents 36 respondents are strongly agree that replacement/exchange of product influence the buying decision, and 38 respondents out of 100 respondents also agreed with the same statement. Whereas, 11 respondents are disagree on the fact that replacement /exchange of products influence the buying decision and 3 respondents out of 100 respondents are strongly disagree with the said statements, remaining 12 respondents can't say anything.

Interpretation: From the obtained data I interpret that better protection of the interests of consumers and redress of consumer disputes will enhance the goodwill of business. Thoroughly assessing the consumer behaviour will help the increase the sale of the firm. From obtained data majority of consumers made selection of those firms who provide them safety measures.

CONCLUSION

The study reveals that, Consumer sovergnity is considered a modern marketing principle. It means that the producer has no right to intervene in the purchasing habits of consumers. They are free to spend their money in any manner they like. Therefore, it is essential to understand the consumer behaviour to meet their requirements by providing suitable products and services. Thoroughly accessing the consumer behaviour will help to increase the sales volume of firm. The planning and policy of marketing can also so decide accordingly. Therefore sound marketing programmers should start with a careful analysis of the habits attitudes, motives and needs of consumers. A marketer should find answers regarding what products and services which consumer prefers to buy and when they buy them. The selection criteria of consumers get largely affected by those products that are highly durable. Therefore, it is necessary to undertake those practices which will improve the quality standard of products and their durability. Finally, consumer is the principal a prior of business. The efficiency with which a free market system of enterprise operates, in the last analysis, depends upon the extent of consumer understanding possessed by the business community. A business community that is ignorant of consumer preferences can't possibly fulfil its obligations in a meaningful and responsive manner.

- Consumers mostly select their dresses according to their economic stability.
- 70% customers are brand cautious; hence we can say brand name had a large impact on customer's satisfaction level.
- Consumers like best quality products at any prices. They should provide goods and services of standard quality and satisfy consumer wants.
- Past experience with a particular brand influence the buying decision of consumers.
- Season/climate conditions also effect the buying decision of consumers. in summer people prefer to wear the cotton clothes whereas, in winter they prefer
 to wear woollen garments.
- The selection criteria of consumers depend to the large extent upon the salesmen's influence. Therefore, customers are agreeing that they get both psychological and economic satisfaction from affectionate salespersons.
- While purchasing garments the thickness of Fabre is a symbol of durability for customers.

RECOMMENDATION

Finally, consumer is the principal a prior of business. The efficiency with which a free market system of enterprise operates, in the last analysis, depends upon the extent of consumer understanding possessed by the business community. A business community that is ignorant of consumer preferences can't possibly fulfil its obligations in a meaningful and responsive manner.

- For better satisfaction of consumers business firm should handle consumer complaints of grievances quickly and to avoid monopolistic and unfair trade
 practices such as adulteration, black marketing, false advertising etc.
- A business community that is ignorant of consumer preferences can't possibly fulfil its obligations in a meaningful and responsive.
- Sound marketing programmers should start with a careful analysis of the habits, attitudes, motives and needs of consumers.

- Repetitive use of the same promotional schemes for a prolonged period may have negative effect on the loyal customers. So, retailers must view to developing more promotional strategy in line with the company's objectives.
- The shopkeepers should be aware of the effective use of sales promotions.

IMPLICATIONS

For the present study efforts are made not only to collect the viewpoints of consumers and shopkeepers but, at the same platform suitable measures are suggested to overcome the uncertain events. The study provides "frame of mind" of people, what are the expectations and desires of consumers and up to how much level this expectation is met. It discloses the main competitors in the field of garments and also shows future scenario of said business in current perspective.

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